IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 14-23.

Claim 1 (previously presented): An apparatus for placing a circular end cap on a cylindrical workpiece, comprising:

a stationary support base;

a guide member which is fixedly attached to the stationary support base and which comprises a ramp;

a movable push bar linearly and reciprocally moveable with respect to said stationary support base;

a spacer which is operatively attached to said push bar for concurrent movement therewith;

an emplacement applicator operably coupled to said spacer, comprising:

a back plate, having a first part and a second part, said second part having a front side and a back side;

a flange affixed to the second part of said back plate on said front side, said flange being pivotally attached to said spacer at a pivot connection distal from said back plate;

a cam follower bearing assembly operably attached to said flange distal from said pivot connection, said cam follower bearing assembly resting on said ramp of said guide member;

an end cap clamping jig operatively attached to the first part of said back plate for receiving said end cap when said back plate is in a substantially horizontal position;

said push bar being configured to move said spacer in a first linear direction, said cam follower bearing assembly being configured to move up the ramp in response to said linear movement of said spacer and to rotate said back plate about said pivot connection from a substantially horizontal position to a substantially vertical position to move said end cap on said end cap clamping jig against said workpiece.

Claim 2 (original): The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said end cap gripping jig comprises a plurality of arcuate segments which cooperate to form a circular hollow therebetween, when placed in end-to-end contact with one another; wherein each of said arcuate segments is radially reciprocally movable with respect to said circular hollow.

Claim 3 (original): The apparatus of claim 2, wherein each of said arcuate segments has a groove formed in an inner surface thereof, to receive an end cap edge portion.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The apparatus of claim 2, wherein said arcuate segments are provided with tapered inner edges, for forcing a circumferential edge of said workpiece inwardly as the segments are forced therepast.

Claim 5 (original): The apparatus of claim 2, wherein said end cap clamping jig comprises at least three segments.

Claim 6 (original): The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a servo motor for moving said push bar.

Claim 7 (original): The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said guide member comprises a first upstanding guide plate, attached to the stationary support member and having a first guide groove formed therein.

Claim 8 (original): The apparatus of claim 7, wherein said first guide groove comprises a substantially horizontal first section, a second section which extends upwardly at an angle from said first section and which defines said ramp therebelow, and a substantially horizontal third section.

Claim 9 (original): The apparatus of claim 7, wherein said guide member comprises a second upstanding guide plate, attached to the stationary support member and having a second guide groove formed therein and facing toward the first guide groove.

Claim 10 (original): The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said emplacement applicator comprises a drive plate for connecting to said push bar, and wherein said spacer is affixed to said drive plate.

Claim 11 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said end cap clamping jig is adapted to be pneumatically actuated.

Claim 12 (original): The apparatus of claim 6, further comprising a threaded shaft attached to said servo motor, and wherein said push bar is threadably connected to said threaded shaft for movement thereby.

Claim 13 (cancelled)

Claim 14 (cancelled)

Claim 15 (cancelled)

Claim 16 (cancelled)

Claim 17 (cancelled)

Claim 18 (cancelled)

Claim 19 (cancelled);

Claim 20 (cancelled)

Claim 21 (cancelled)

Claim 22 (cancelled)

Claim 23 (cancelled).